

**Gallatin County Planning Board  
Infrastructure Committee  
Water and Wastewater Subcommittee  
Record of Meeting: March 23, 2009**

**Members present:** C.B. Dormire (Subcommittee Chair), Gail Richardson, Don Seifert, Kerry White; Sean O'Callaghan, County Planning Department. **Guests:** Joe Skinner, Commissioner; Earl Mathers, County Administrator (and Interim Planning Director).

1. **Call to Order:** 4:05 p.m.
2. **Approval of March 9, 2009 Minutes:** CB handed out notes for revisions to the minutes and Kerry offered some comments to revise #5 of the minutes.
3. **Discussion of Legal Matters Relevant to Subcommittee Task:**  
CB handed out a memo detailing the sections of Montana Code Annotated that he thinks the Committee ought to consider. In order for the Committee to be able to ask educated questions, the group needs to have a good feel for what is covered by law. The Committee discussed this memo and the attached sections of the Montana Constitution and statute.
4. **Member Reports:** None discussed.
5. **Next meeting Date and Agenda:** Same as today's agenda, next meeting April 13<sup>th</sup>.
6. **Other Business:**  
Commissioner Skinner visited with the Committee and said he is supportive of Wastewater Committee and the idea of another wastewater study, but because of the current budget situation, he feels that he cannot support funding of a second wastewater study at this time. He thinks that the Planning Board's money needs to be used to finish up some existing long range planning projects (Amsterdam/Churchill, Gallatin Gateway, Four Corners, etc., and infrastructure planning in the triangle area). Joe thinks getting the roadmap done first (neighborhood planning) and then doing the wastewater study would be a better way to go. He also thinks that delaying the study could allow for better coordination and collaboration between the Planning Board Committee, the Board of Health, and the Local Water Quality District.

Kerry said that the Planning Board put money aside in their budget for this specific purpose. Joe said he understands that, but the money is needed for other ongoing long range planning projects that the Planning Board is also working on. Joe acknowledges that this work is critical but suggests delaying the study for a year based on the budget situation.

Earl clarified the Planning Department is looking about \$100,000 short based on projections for the current fiscal year.

Kerry said he is thinking that the Planning Board won't have much of a budget next year. This last year, the Board gave over \$100,000 to staff, and Kerry doesn't think the money will be there to do that this coming year. Kerry views the proposed study as a critical component

to health, safety, and welfare. Kerry stated that the study could help plan for density, but Joe said he thinks that the planning efforts being done first would help make a wastewater study more accurate.

CB expressed the sentiment that the County got itself in a tough spot by not doing enough of the long range planning in a slow time and were caught off guard when development got busy. He thinks the County needs to take advantage of this opportunity to get ahead of the curve.

Don thinks that protection of the aquifer is important, and there is already a high concentration of septic systems within the proposed study area. Don stated that he thinks neighborhood plans have a larger impact on people, and that we could put off the study for a year.

If Joe can be convinced that we can get this study done and maintain adequate staff to keep working on the other ongoing long-range planning efforts, he is willing to listen.

Don asked why the Planning Board did not have representation on the CIP Committee? Kerry stated that the CIP deals more with buildings and infrastructure as opposed to land use planning related issues and thus it isn't really within the scope of the Board. Earl stated that there have been discussions about broadening the role of the CIP Committee, but it hasn't happened because the Committee has been busy dealing with capital facilities.

Don would like to hear from the other two County Commissioners. Don said we could also move forward and see if we get two votes. Kerry is supportive of moving forward, since the Board put the money aside for this specific purpose, and because he thinks it is in the public interest. CB thinks it would be a small step to get staff help to put the substance of the Committee's proposed scope of work for the study into an RFP format.

If the RFP was approved by the Board, it would be referred to the Commission along with any other interested parties (Board of Health, LWQD). Gail stated again that she thinks getting input on the RFP before it goes to the Planning Board could be very beneficial.

C.B. requested that the December 22, 2008 memo from James Greenbaum be made an exhibit.

**7. Adjourn: 5:51 p.m.**